



More Tips for a Successful Poster Contest Participation

1. Children will select either one of the icons to enter.
2. You must follow the rules that include how you identify the poster.
3. Please check the spelling. Posters with misspelling errors will be disqualified.
4. Approach any group of children: such as scout troops, after school programs, and the like. Just make sure the child's grade is included, so the participant can compete in their grade category.
5. You might even try providing the paper for the contest in order to initiate the program.
6. The members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., can purchase Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl promotional and educational products at the National Symbols Cache Web based catalog. Please log on at www.symbols.gov. Be sure to follow the instructions. To place an order you need a password:
User ID: reduce
Password: scoe6438
7. Feel free to offer certificate of appreciation to all participants. Certificates are available and downloadable at www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation. The National Garden Clubs, Inc., will make certificates at their Web site also: www.gardenclub.org.
8. Participating in this contest is an opportunity to encourage conservation, environmental education, or at least an awareness of nature for children.
9. Collaboration between the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., is important. You can contribute to this collaborative effort by completing the form that indicates how many contacts per State were made. It doesn't matter how many entries your State may have, it is essential for us to know if your State sent materials to 20 children or 200. The Forest Service invests tax payers money in keeping this partnership alive. We need to help them justify the use of these funds by providing an estimate of our outreach efforts with the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest.
10. The Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is one of those opportunities for local Garden Clubs to get out its message. We encourage you to use the contest to promote your club, attract children and their parents, and fulfill one of the goals of the organization raise awareness for the caring of the environment.
11. Copy your winning posters as they are not returned.
12. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Dates at elainedates@comcast.net or Iris Velez at ivelez@fs.fed.us.

Thank you so much for your support and commitment to our partnership with the Forest Service. **Only YOU Can Prevent Wildfires!**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate? Any child from first grade to fifth grade can participate in the contest. The student must have the endorsement of a local Garden Club.

Can children outside a school group participate in the contest?

Of course, children from local scout troops, church groups, and homeschooling programs can participate as long as they get the support of a local Garden Club.

Can past winners participate again? Absolutely!

Can a student have both Smokey and Woodsy together in the same poster? No. Contest participants must choose which icon they would like to showcase in their poster.

Do they have to include the slogan in the poster? This is a must! Contest participants must include the slogan that goes with the icon selected. Those who choose Smokey Bear must include: Only you can prevent wildfires! Those who choose Woodsy Owl must include: Lend a hand, care for the land.

Could students do a poster by pasting their artwork on another paper? Of course, just make sure the poster is flat. NO 3-D will be accepted.

Can a student use just the head of Woodsy or Smokey? Definitely!

I coordinated my group's participation in this year's poster contest, how can I reward their efforts? We encourage you to organize a recognition ceremony and give one certificate to every child who participated in the contest! We have developed a Certificate of Participation that you can download from our Web site. And, if you have a national forest nearby, you may want to contact your local Forest Service office and ask if Smokey or Woodsy can come and join the recognition ceremony. You may find a national forest near you by visiting <http://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation>.

I am a local poster contest coordinator and I need materials to market the poster contest with local organizations, whom should I contact?

If you are a National Garden Clubs, Inc., local coordinator for the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest, you should contact your State chairman for the poster contest or your national chairman of the poster contest.

What happens to the posters that compete for the national grand prize? Those posters are property of the Forest Service. They ARE NOT returned to the children who won the national categories. We encourage participants and State and regional chairmen for the poster contest to make electronic copies of the posters they submit. Again, national winning posters are not returned!